(b) if so, whether Government are aware that our public expenditure is $406 per student, which is lowest as compared to $2728 in China, $ 666 in Indonesia and even in Malaysia it is $ 625; and

(c) whether private players like ICFA/Amity/Symbiosis are playing a stellar role in contributing their might, still much needs to be done by Government towards becoming a major global economy by producing trained professionals in each field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The expenditure on Higher Education including Technical Education was 0.44 percentage of GDP during 2005-2006.

(b) The Central Government is aware of the fact that our public expenditure per student is low as compared to several other countries.

(c) Efforts have been made by the Central Government by increasing the budgetary provision for higher education, including technical education substantially since 2004-2005 resulting in the creation of new Central Universities and other higher educational institutions. The strategy being followed is to expand capacity as well as increase opportunities of access to all sections of the society, while maintaining standards. There is no bar on private not-for-profit initiatives in the field of higher and technical education.

Opening of an IIT in Chhattisgarh

†2779. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was announced to open an IIT in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether a resolution of the State Legislative Assembly has been received in this regard; and

(c) whether polytechnic colleges have been sanctioned for five districts and if so, the details of the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Central Government has not taken any decision to open an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chhattisgarh. However, the Legislative Assembly of Chhattisgarh State has passed a non-official resolution requesting the Central Government for establishment of an IIT at Bhilai.

(c) The Government have initiated a scheme to provide one time financial assistance for establishment of polytechnics in certain specially identified districts of the country, where there is no polytechnic as of now. Koriya, Jashpur, Kanker and Dantewara are four such districts identified in the State of Chhattisgarh.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.